

Application No.: 09/748,717

Art Unit: 2623

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS****RECEIVED  
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Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 – 78 (Cancelled).

79. (Previously presented) A method of distributing information by a point of distribution to subscribers via a communication network, comprising:
- dividing a television broadcast spectrum into a plurality of subscriber channels, each subscriber channel having a deterministic bandwidth;
  - allocating unshared bandwidth to each of a plurality of subscriber destinations, wherein only a selected subscriber destination from among the plurality of subscriber destinations forwards or receives information utilizing its allocated unshared bandwidth;
  - assigning each of the subscriber destinations to a subscriber channel;
  - forwarding source information to each subscriber destination based on assigned subscriber channels;
  - modulating forwarded source information for each subscriber channel;
  - up converting modulated forwarded source information into a corresponding one of the subscriber channels;
  - combining up converted, modulated forwarded source information from each subscriber channel into a combined signal; and
  - distributing the combined signal to the plurality of subscriber destinations via the communication network;
  - allocating broadcast television channels within a predetermined frequency range of the television broadcast spectrum;
  - dividing the plurality of subscriber channels into a remaining portion of the television broadcast spectrum outside the predetermined frequency range allocated to the broadcast television channels; and
  - combining the broadcast television channels into the combined signal;
  - allocating a first portion of the remaining portion of the television broadcast spectrum to downstream subscriber channels; and

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allocating a second portion of the remaining portion of the television broadcast spectrum to upstream subscriber channels;

wherein each subscriber channel comprises a respective downstream subscriber channel and a respective upstream subscriber channel, each having a dedicated and unshared bandwidth.

80. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, further comprising:  
dividing the television broadcast spectrum into an upstream portion and a downstream portion; and

allocating each subscriber destination an unshared downstream bandwidth and an unshared upstream bandwidth.

81. (Previously presented) The method of claim 80, wherein each subscriber channel includes a downstream subscriber channel in the downstream portion and an upstream subscriber channel in the upstream portion.

82. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, further comprising:  
subdividing at least one subscriber channel into a plurality of bandwidth increments;  
and  
assigning multiple subscriber destinations to the at least one subscriber channel, each of the multiple subscriber destinations being allocated at least one of the bandwidth increments of the at least one subscriber channel.

83. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, further comprising:  
receiving source information from a plurality of content sewers in the form of data packets; and  
the forwarding comprising forwarding the received source information based on address information within the data packets.

84. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, further comprising:  
tracking actual bandwidth usage of each subscriber destination.

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85. (Previously presented) The method of claim 84, further comprising:  
monitoring source information by service type provided to a subscriber destination; and  
tracking bandwidth usage of the subscriber destination for each service type.
86. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, wherein the dividing comprises  
dividing a substantial portion of the television broadcast spectrum into the plurality of  
subscriber channels.
87. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, further comprising:  
receiving a request for video information from a subscriber destination via the  
communication network;  
receiving the requested video information in packetized format;  
forwarding the packetized video information to a subscriber channel assigned to the  
requesting subscriber destination.
88. (Previously presented) The method of claim 87, wherein the video information is  
a broadcast television channel.
89. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, further comprising:  
converting the combined signal into an optical signal; and  
transmitting the optical signal on an optical plant to an optical transceiver node.
90. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, further comprising:  
receiving a combined upstream signal from the communication network;  
splitting the combined upstream signal into multiple streams of subscriber information;  
providing each stream of subscriber information to a corresponding one of a plurality of  
tuners, each tuner tuned to a corresponding subscriber channel;  
extracting, by each tuner, a corresponding return RF signal;  
demodulating a return RF signal into packetized subscriber information; and  
forwarding the packetized subscriber information.

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91. (Previously presented) The method of claim 90, further comprising:  
the receiving comprising receiving an optical signal; and  
prior to splitting the combined upstream signal, converting the optical signal into the  
combined upstream signal.
92. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, further comprising:  
detecting a request by a subscriber destination for increased bandwidth; and  
increasing the allocated unshared bandwidth to the subscriber destination in accordance  
with the increased bandwidth request.
93. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, further comprising:  
detecting a request by a subscriber destination for a service that would require a greater  
amount of bandwidth than currently allocated to the requesting subscriber destination; and  
increasing the allocated unshared bandwidth to the requesting subscriber destination to  
handle the requested service.
94. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, further comprising:  
receiving a physical address request from a subscriber destination;  
retrieving the requested physical address from a stored address database; and  
forwarding the retrieved physical address to the requesting subscriber destination.
95. (Previously presented) The method of claim 94, further comprising:  
if the requested physical address is not found, forwarding a broadcast address resolution  
protocol request in an attempt to locate a device having the requested physical address.
96. (Previously presented) The method of claim 95, further comprising detecting and  
halting abuse of address requests by a subscriber device.

Claims 97 – 146 (Cancelled).